

What is Claimed is:

1. A steering wheel comprising:

a rim section having a core incorporated therein;

said rim section being constituted by rim elements made

5 of a thermosoftening synthetic resin material to which woodmeal is added, resulting in said rim section being formed thereon with a flow pattern;

10 said rim elements each being re-shaped from a straight rod-like configuration into an arcuate configuration in conformity to a curvature of said core and mounted on said core, so that the flow pattern may be transformed into an annular flow pattern.

15 2. A steering wheel as defined in claim 1, wherein said thermosoftening synthetic resin material has a color pigment added thereto so that the flow pattern is formed in an annular flow pattern which has a clear woodgrain emphasized by said color pigment added.

20 3. A steering wheel as defined in claim 2, wherein said rim section is formed thereon with holding unevenness in such a manner that the flow pattern is transformed into the annular flow pattern while preventing the thus-formed annular flow pattern from being disordered by said holding unevenness.

25 4. A method for manufacturing a steering wheel comprising the steps of:

30 extruding a thermosoftening synthetic resin to which woodmeal is added to prepare a pair of straight rod-like rim elements;

bending the straight rod-like rim elements into an arcuate shape in conformity to a curvature of a core while keeping the rim elements softened; and

mounting the rim elements thus bent on the core while interposing the core therebetween.

35 5. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said extruding step is carried out using a nozzle formed to have a

5 semicircular shape in section having an arc section formed substantially in conformity to an arcuate shape which is a half of a sectional configuration of a rim section of a finished steering wheel and which is defined at an outermost portion of the rim section and a chord section projectingly provided with a core corresponding section which is formed substantially in conformity to a half of a sectional configuration of the core, resulting in the rim elements being prepared in the form of a straight rod-like shape.

10 6. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said bending step is carried out using a regulating die formed thereon with projections for forming holding unevenness and a forcing die; and

15 the straight rod-like rim elements are each softened by re-heating to be roughly bent into an arcuate shape and then fitted in the regulating die, then pressed by means of the forcing die, during which the regulating die and forcing die cooperate with each other to define an arcuate cavity having a room region defined at each of opposite ends thereof in a longitudinal direction thereof.

20 7. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said pair of rim elements each include a front side rim element observable from a driver's seat and a rear side rim element opposite to the front side rim element; and

25 said mounting step is carried out by mounting the front and rear side rim elements on the core while adhesively joining the front and rear rim elements to each other.

30 8. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said pair of rim elements each include an inner peripheral side rim element and an outer peripheral side rim element opposite to the front side rim element; and

said mounting step is carried out by mounting the inner and outer peripheral side rim elements on the core while adhesively joining the inner and outer peripheral side rim elements to each other.

9. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said mounting step includes mounting a cover member on a joint between the rim elements.

10. A method as defined in claim 7, wherein said
mounting step includes mounting a cover member on a joint between
the rim elements.

11. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein said mounting step includes mounting a cover member on a joint between the rim elements.

13. A method as defined in claim 4, further comprising the step of applying a coating to the rim elements, the coating being applied to a front side of the rim elements observable from a driver's seat.

14. A method as defined in claim 4, further comprising the step of carrying out liquid pressure transfer printing of the rim elements;

wherein the transfer print is applied to a front side of the rim elements observable from a driver's seat; and

25 the liquid pressure transfer printing is carried out so
as to permit formation of a transfer printing pattern by
gradations on the rim elements wherein a transfer ink layer is
gradually reduced in thickness toward a rear side of the rim
elements, whereby a ground pattern gradually appears on the rim
elements.
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